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MANAGEMENT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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A summary of significant events of
interest to USDA management

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Issue #45
September 17, 1976

PROCUREMENT
USDA EMPLOYEES HONORED.....Ms. Dorothy I. Fennell, ARS, Peoria, Illinois, will be one of six outstanding women in the Federal Government to receive the Federal Woman's Award for 1976. Ms. Fennell, Microbiologist at the Northern Regional Research Center, has developed methods of identification of mold important to agriculture, medicine, industry and the military. This award will be presented during a banquet on October 6, at the Shoreham Americana Hotel.

Dr. Robert J. Lillie, Research Animal Scientist, ARS, will be one of the ten Outstanding Handicapped Federal Employees of the year to be honored by the Civil Service Commission on September 30. Dr. Lillie is one of only five persons born deaf who has earned a Ph.D. degree. He has authored or co-authored over 80 scientific publications and his oral presentations have earned him great respect. (Contact: Mae Paulsen, OP, ext. 75618)

HACE MEETING.....On September 9, the Assistant Secretary for Administration spoke at the luncheon meeting of HACE (Hispanic American Cultural Effort), an organization of USDA employees. He spoke on the subject of overall USDA EEO efforts and the employment of Hispanics in the Department. Recognizing the low representation of Hispanics in the USDA workforce, he expressed his concern and commitment to improve this situation and his determination to work with HACE and other employee groups toward achieving equal employment opportunity for everyone. (Contact: Gloria Torres, OP, ext. 72973)

WASHINGTON SPACE CONSULTANT CONTRACT.....On September 3, 1976, Jeffery Miller, President of Hunter/Miller Associates, met with the Directors of Administrative Services and discussed the importance and need for accuracy of the information to be completed on the questionnaire they distributed. The questionnaire will supply the necessary data needed for their analysis of the space problem. The agencies are to be commended on their efforts in this project, especially under the extremely tight deadlines dictated in the contract. Their efforts have kept this project on schedule.

Hunter/Miller has submitted updated floor plans of the building with current partition locations and agency assignments. This will be the foundation upon which the rest of the project is built. OO has reviewed these plans, and a meeting is scheduled with Hunter/Miller, GSA and OO on September 15 to discuss the results of the first phase of the contract. (Contact: Pete Gagnon, OO, ext. 73141)

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FORMS AND PUBLICATIONS DISTRIBUTION.....A Departmental Management Improvement Objective for FY 77, to improve services and reduce costs in forms and publications distribution, has changed its estimated completion date because of the higher priority awarded the project. This study, originally scheduled for completion in February 1977, will now be finalized on November 30, 1976. OO will assume responsibility for the actual study, with coordination and staff support from other offices and agencies. The study will cover existing forms and publications distribution systems in the Washington, D.C. area, and will examine alternative logistical systems. A detailed study plan will be presented to the Management Council by September 30. (Contact: Tom Foster, OO, ext. 78393)

HOUSE ACTION LIKELY ON S. 1437.....The Legislative and National Security Subcommittee of the House Government Operations Committee held hearings on Senate Bill S. 1437, The Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1976, on Monday, September 13. The Subcommittee adopted an amendment to reduce the authority of agency heads to give personal property title to non-Federal organizations. They favorably reported the bill to the full Committee, with a recommendation for passage by the House. It appears that S. 1437 could become law during this session of Congress. (Contact: Don Manns, OO, ext. 77527)

NEW DIRECTOR FOR OO.....Edmund Alvarez was appointed Director, Office of Operations, effective September 12. Mr. Alvarez previously served as Chief, Administrative Services Division, Drug Enforcement Administration for the Department of Justice. He began his Federal career with the Department of Defense in 1951 and in 1956 joined the General Services Administration. He remained with GSA until he joined the Department of Justice in 1970. A native of Mesilla Park, New Mexico, he currently resides in Alexandria, Virginia.

APHIS EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT.....APHIS has entered into a second round of top level mobility assignments for supergrades in their top team over the next 6 months. Deputy Administrators for Veterinary Services, Meat and Poultry Inspection, Plant Protection and Quarantine, and Administrative Management are rotating as Acting Administrator and Associate Administrator for 60-day periods. Currently, Jack Carson, Deputy for Administration, is Acting Administrator of APHIS.

This process sets up a "chain reaction" of assignments down through the GS-15 levels. Dr. Frank Mulhern, APHIS Administrator, is using this system to develop his top team and also to evaluate potential for future replacement of his executive team. (Contact: Jack Carson, APHIS, ext. 75213)

EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT GRADUATION.....From October 20-22, APHIS holds their second annual graduation conference for 62 executives completing an intensive 25-month Executive Development Program. Assistant Secretaries J. P. Bolduc and Richard Feltner, and noted management consultant, Dr. Michael Mescon will address the group. (Contact: Jack Carson, APHIS, ext. 75213)

OEO CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE REVIEW PROJECT.....The Compliance and Enforcement Division (C&E) has completed a field evaluation of civil rights compliance reviews conducted by USDA program agency personnel. The C&E evaluation was designed to review the effectiveness and efficiency of the program. During September, OEO will meet with administrators and officials of the six agencies in the project to discuss draft reports to develop a more effective review system. (Contact: Richard J. Peer, OEO, ext. 77327)

PUBLIC BUILDING SERVICE REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS MEETING.....The GSA Public Buildings Service is holding a meeting of Regional PBS Commissioners in New Hampshire the first week of October. Assistant Secretary Bolduc will address the group on the need for greater uniformity among GSA Regions and a better understanding of USDA space problems. (Contact: J. P. Bolduc, SEC, ext. 73291)

CURRENT LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY.....

- ...Government in the Sunshine...The President signed S5, which provides that meetings of Government agencies, with certain exceptions, be open to the public. (PL 94-409)
- ...Congressional Budget.....The conferees reported S. Con. Res. 139, the Second Concurrent Budget Resolution on September 13.
- ...USDA Executives.....The Senate Agriculture Committee reported HR 10133, which would upgrade the position of Under Secretary to Deputy Secretary and creating an additional Assistant Secretary position. This bill would also upgrade the position of the Administrator of APHIS to Executive Level V. The bill awaits Senate floor action.
- ...Direct Marketing.....On September 13, the conferees reported HR 10339, to encourage direct marketing of agricultural commodities from farmers to consumers.
- ...National Recreation Area.....The House Interior and Insular Affairs Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation held hearings on HR 14732, to authorize and direct the Secretary of Agriculture to study the Shawnee National Forest in Illinois for possible designation as a national recreation area.
- ...USDA Dependents Training.....The House agreed to the conference report on S3052, to provide orientation and language training to dependents of USDA personnel assigned or stationed overseas.
- ...Public Works Appropriations.....The conferees reported HR 15194, Public Works Appropriations, for the period ending September 30, 1977. (H. Report 94-1537). (Contact: John Mottershead, OMF, ext. 74654)

TELECOMMUNICATIONS STUDY INITIATED.....Network Analysis Corporation was provided a background briefing on September 14, as the first step toward implementing its Department-wide telecommunications study. (Contact: Vic Muller, ADS, ext. 74301)

NEW ADP PUBLICATION.....Edward O. Joslin, staff member, ADS has recently co-authored a book entitled Managing Data Processing published by College Readings, Incorporated, Alexandria, Virginia. (Contact: Ed Joslin, ADS, ext. 75890)

KCCC BRIEFING FOR HILL STAFF.....On September 21, USDA will brief the House Committee on Government Operations on the Department's plans for competitive upgrade of the KCCC. (Contact: H. W. Meetze, ADS, ext. 76275)

RESULTS OF DEPARTMENTAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK MONITORING EFFORT.....A joint monitoring effort between AT&T and ADS regarding use of USDA wideband network has resulted in the removal of low utilized duplicate trunking circuits between switching facilities and resulted in annual savings in operating costs of \$57,600. (Contact: Vic Muller, ADS, ext. 74301)

DID YOU KNOW THAT EXTENSION SERVICE.....

- ...Is assisting the state Extension Service (in cooperation with EPA) to train and certify 100,000 commercial and 2 million private pesticide applicators by October 1, 1977.
- ...Coordinates the activities of 38 pest management pilot projects on 24 commodities in 33 states--projects aimed at saving farmers money and reducing the amount of pesticides going into the environment.
- ...Worked with the Florida Cooperative Extension Service in a pilot project on energy conservation and management, developing publications and audiovisual materials for use by other state Extension Services.
- ...Had more than 5,000,000 young people, age 9-19, take part in the Extension 4-H youth program in 1975.
- ...Has more than 559,000 4-H volunteer leaders--adults, juniors, and teens--assist with the program, each donating an average of 20 8-hour days per year.
- ...Has more than 36 million "Alumni" of 4-H.
- ...Has about 4,000 professional Extension home economists and 7,000 paraprofessionals, assisted by 700,000 volunteer leaders, who extend home and family living education to 10 million families annually.
- ...Emphasizes work with rural American families (outside cities of 50,000 or more) thru the Extension Home Economics Program. About 80 percent of the state Extension home economists' time is being directed to these rural families in 1976.
- ...Has an Extension Home Economics staff who spend one-third of their time reaching low-income audiences.
- ...In 1975, thru community projects, made more than 9,000 surveys and feasibility studies, conducted almost 55,000 workshops and conferences reaching 2 million people.